OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 11/29/63

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY

Tolson
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The office of the District Attorney, New Orleans arrested one David William Ferrie and two associates for vagrancy on the basis of information indicating Ferrie taught Lee Harvey Oswald how to use a telescopic rifle sight. This has been disproven.

David William Ferrie is employed as a research man for New Orleans attorney G. Wray Gill. Mr. Gill reportedly stated that Oswald when arrested at Dallas possessed a library card bearing the name of David William Ferrie. This is not true as the card which Oswald possessed was in his own name.

Gill also reportedly said that Ferrie had stated in the presence of one Jack S. Martin that the President should be killed and had outlined plans to accomplish this.

[redacted]

[redacted] on interview, advised Agents he had witnessed a television program November 23, 1963, on which several individuals reported an association of Lee Oswald and David Ferrie. [redacted] said as he knew that Ferrie was a former commander of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and had been active in training members of the CAP, he surmised that Ferrie may have trained Oswald in the use of a telescopic rifle. He reported this suspicion to the District Attorney's Office, New Orleans, and on this basis members of that office proceeded to Ferrie's residence and in his absence arrested two associates and subsequently arrested Ferrie, charging all with vagrancy. [redacted] denied he had ever said that Ferrie made a statement that the President should be killed.

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Edward Voebel, New Orleans, was the person who in a television appearance on November 23, 1963, stated he knew Oswald as a former member of the Civil Air Patrol in New Orleans. During this same television presentation it was mentioned that David William Ferrie was a former commander of the CAP, however, there was no mention of any association between Ferrie and Oswald.

Edward Voebel, on interview, said he had been a member of the CAP, New Orleans, for approximately one year, 1955-1956. David William Ferrie took over as commander of the CAP unit during this time. Voebel took Oswald to one of the meetings and stated Oswald attended several meetings, possibly four meetings at the most. According to Voebel, Oswald lost interest as he disliked the authority and discipline in connection with the CAP activity.

David William Ferrie upon interview acknowledged he had been a member and past commander of the CAP unit in New Orleans. He said he does not know anyone named Lee Harvey Oswald and could not identify a photograph of him. Ferrie said he had never instructed Oswald or anyone else in the use of American-made or foreign-made firearms. While in the CAP he assisted in firearms instruction for range safety only. Ferrie denied ever having made a statement that the President should be killed. He said he was associated with the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans, which is an anti-Castro organization. Ferrie at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba said he was very much concerned at the lack of air cover provided and at that time criticized President Kennedy both in public and in private. He said he may have used a offhand or colloquial expression, "He ought to be shot," in connection with his feelings about the Cuban situation at that time. Ferrie said he has also been called a worshiper of Kennedy because he is a strong believer in many of the programs of the Kennedy administration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Above for information. New Orleans Division vigorously pursuing investigation and development of all possible information concerning the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald in that area.